

## Manila Sound icons to open for the Drifters at Fiesta In America

Written by Special to the Filipino Reporter  
Thursday, 20 July 2017 13:22

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**Music and Magic. From left, Fe de los Reyes, Eva Caparas and Jet Montelibano.**

Two musical acts that helped define the Manila Sound will add their signature tunes and choreography to the opening acts of the Drifters at Fiesta In America on Aug. 12 and 13, 2017 at New Jersey's Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus.

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According to Ogie Afable, Producer-Director of Fiesta In America's cultural show, "Music and Magic, VST & Company and a roster of thrilling performers will provide a superb opener to the legendary Drifters' full concert on both days of the event. Our audience this year can look forward to a combination of memory-lane hits and current Billboard chart-toppers."

Having evolved through the years from the original Kuh Ledesma-fronted group into a dynamic trio, Music and Magic currently stars singer-comic Fe de los Reyes (a frequent Fiesta In America stand-up performer), soulful singer Eva Caparas, and high-energy singer Jet Montelibano.

Music and Magic was a Manila Sound trailblazer at live-act venues in Makati, including the famed Alibi Bar.

They have thrilled audiences at prestigious concert halls in Singapore, Malaysia, Canada, Los Angeles, New York and other parts of the world with their cover versions of '60s, '70s and '80s dance standards such as Earth, Wind and Fire classics, disco hits, and a medley of Tagalog novelty songs.

VST & Company ("VST" stood for the initials of Vic Sotto, Spanky Rigor and Tito Sotto) was a pioneer of the disco-infused Manila Sound of the late '70s along with Hot Dog, Cinderella and the Circus Band.

Originally, VST & Company consisted of composers and singers Tito, Vic and Val Sotto; bassist and vocalist Spanky Rigor, with vocalist brothers Roger and Male; composer-lyricist Joey de Leon; guitarist Celso Llarina; vocalists Monet Gaskell and June Medina; keyboardist Homer Flores; and various instrumentalists.

The contemporary VST & Company, fronted by Spanky and Roger Rigor, brings concert audiences to their feet through their signature tunes, including Rock, Baby, Rock; Awitin Mo, Isasayaw Ko; and Magsayawan that are now considered staples of Filipino disco.

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The cultural show's openers can draw huge audiences by themselves, being led by super-composer and singer Rey Valera (he penned the songs that boosted a young Sharon Cuneta to mega-stardom), Jessica Sanchez of American Idol fame, and Tawag Ng Tanghalan champion Noven Belleza.

But the marquee feature is truly a first not only in the event's 19-year history but in the Fil-Am community as well.

None other than the Drifters will perform a full concert on both days of Fiesta In America.



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### VST & Company.

Two-time inductees in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Drifters have sold over 200 million albums and have given the world such romantic standards as Save the Last Dance for Me, There Goes My Baby, Sweets for My Sweet, Under the Boardwalk, and nine other Billboard Hot 100 hits.

The cultural show, however, is only part of Fiesta In America's complete package.

A Total Wellness theme will pervade among numerous exhibits at the Trade Pavilion and in free workshops.

A native Food Court stocked with regional specialties, a Sunday Mass and Santacruzán, as well as artistic and engaging activities for all age groups, will round-up the event's diverse offerings for the entire family.

And as a nod of appreciation to its avid followers, seniors will receive limited-time free tickets, but only if they arrive between 12 noon and 1 p.m. on either days of Fiesta In America.

Major sponsors include AARP, Asian Journal, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Goya Foods, Hackensack Meridian Health, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Hudson Kia, Hudson Toyota, LBC, and T-Mobile.

To attend, sponsor or exhibit, call 212-682-6610 or e-mail [info@fiestainamerica.com](mailto:info@fiestainamerica.com).

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